

Community-Word Project – Lesson Plan 2017-18



School/Grade/CT(s): PS 279, 5th Grade
TAP Trainees: Michelle Houslanger & Miguel Figueroa
Lesson Plan for PS 279, 02/05/18

Theme of Lesson: Gothic storytelling and performance; creative collaboration as a community

Inquiry Questions:

- How can we come together as a class to collaborate on interpreting and performing a poem?
- How can we use one art form to help inspire our work in another?
- How do we experience other people and empathize through theatre, music & writing?
- How do we take new risks as artists?
- What did Poe mean when he said “Poetry of words is the Rhythmical Creation of Beauty”?

Opening Ritual: Focus Warm Up

- Prepare your breath
- Tibetan Singing Bowl
- Movement to Bach

Intro Activity: Dance Out Their Energy

- Miguel will play “Bossa Nova” and we will ask them to dance/strike any poses that they want. (Teaching artists will be participating in this as well, and classroom teachers if they would like to.)

Main Exercise: Sensory Detail Review & Gesture Work with Emily Dickinson’s “I felt a Funeral, in my Brain”

- Michelle will introduce the poem (“I felt a Funeral, in my Brain,” by Emily Dickinson), and Michelle & Miguel will pass out copies to the class.
- Miguel and Michelle will alternate reading the poem together in a dramatic/ominous voice.
- Michelle & Miguel will present criteria for gestures.
- We will ask the class what kinds of sensory details they notice in the poem and how they might act them out with gestures.
- We will go through the poem line by line, performing our gestures together as a class.
- We will end by doing a free-write reflection in their journals. We will ask them to think about what their favorite parts of the poem were, and how they might use them as inspiration for their own spooky stories (keeping in mind sensory detail & setting).

Closing Ritual Objective: Build community, work together

- *I have a voice. My voice is powerful. My voice can change the world.*

- We will clap 10 times all together to signify the 10 times we've been together (including field trip)

Multiple Intelligences Addressed:

Highlight the intelligences used throughout this lesson plan.

Logical-mathematical; Spatial; Linguistic; Bodily-kinesthetic; Interpersonal; Intrapersonal; Naturalistic; Existential

Classroom Teacher Role: To help keep the students focused and participate in the activity we do together.

Creative Elements: Sensory Details, Performance/Gesture Work, Journaling, Interpreting Poetry, Storytelling

Skill(s): Collaboration, Citizenship, Creative Thinking, Sharing/Presenting in front of the class

Theme(s): Gothic Poetry/Storytelling & Performance

TAP Trainees: Trainees will be leading the lesson.

Outcomes:

Highlight each outcome that applies to this lesson. Provide one indication of how you are addressing each outcome.

Leaders, Emotionally Intelligent/Expressive, Literate, Critical Thinkers, Citizenship, Culturally Aware, Creative Thinkers/Imaginative

Indications:

-Students are exploring their emotional intelligence/expression and critical thinking through thinking creatively about how they might combine art forms (theater & poetry) to make something exciting and new

-Citizenship is practiced by working together as a community to collaborate

-Students explore Poe Cottage and other places throughout the Bronx, becoming more culturally aware of the place they're from

-Creativity is explored in free writing in the journals & in the gesture work we do in the main activity

-Students will show leadership skills by leading the closing rituals & sharing